

Goal 3: Transparent Access through Interagency Cooperation

Rather than being an end in itself, interagency cooperation has been identified as a critical strategy to increasing the quality and availability of library services to all Washington citizens. Interagency cooperation can exist between two or more library institutions, or between a library institution and another information service, educational institution, or community service agency. The goal of all interagency cooperation is to either increase or improve the level of information provision to the service populations of each partner institution.

Each year, the proportion of funds expended on projects that required interagency cooperation to successfully achieve the stated project objectives increased steadily at an average annual rate of 11.6% (see Table 27).

Table 27: Proportion of LSTA Funds Supporting Cooperative Projects

	Total LSTA Expenditures	Expenditures for Cooperative Projects	% of Total Expenditures	Annual Increase in % of Total Expenditures
1998	\$1,087,370	\$35,735	3.3%	(not applicable)
1999	\$3,564,358	\$627,000	17.5%	14.2%
2000	\$2,860,222	\$678,279	23.7%	6.2%
2001	\$3,026,422	\$1,149,425	38.0%	14.3%
Total	\$10,538,372	\$2,390,439	22.7%	Avg. Annual Increase: 11.6%

Many cooperative programs have been statewide projects such as Statewide Database Licensing, Find-It! Consumer, and Virtual Reference Service, and the K-20 Project. However, interagency cooperation has also occurred in projects administered at the local level. Out of 120 competitive grants awarded from 1999 to 2001, 60 have involved the participation of two or more agencies (see Table 28).

Table 28: Proportion of Competitive Grants Involving Interagency Cooperation

	Total Competitive Grant Awards	Grants Requiring Interagency Cooperation	Percent of Total Grants
Connectivity	69	9	13%
Digital Images	15	15	100%
Early Learning	36	36	100%
Total	120	60	50%

^a Although the majority of the work involved in digitization projects might be undertaken by one institution, such projects have been defined here as cooperative since many of the projects involved the digitization of collections at multiple institutions and the whole purpose of these projects is to share resources between institutions. Furthermore, the training for these projects has also been organized and supported at the statewide level.